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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW, a Senator from the State of Michigan.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I am very pleased today to have the prayer be given by our guest Chaplain from the great State of Michigan, Rev. Timothy Tuthill of the First United Methodist Church in Mason, MI.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty and Everlasting God, You created order out of chaos and have given us life and as we gather here today we are reminded of Your grace and trust in us all. Through Your wisdom, O God, You have shared out of Your abundance and gifted us with minds to think and a spirit to act. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our country as elected leaders and servants. Guide our elected officials as they debate and discern and may our Senators seek Your great counsel and be mindful of the needs of our communities, States, country, and world.

In this time, let us be ready to stand firm and be guided by the principles that led the Founders of our country to pursue liberty and justice for all. Continue to be with all those who are in harm's way today and guide our Nation and world as we continue to look for peaceful ways to resolve conflict near and far. We ask this and all things in your Holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### KILLING OF AL-ZARQAWI

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate just finished honoring our flag with the Pledge of Allegiance, an innovation we added to the Senate proceeding several years ago upon the suggestion and urging of our former colleague, Senator Bob Smith of New Hampshire. As we pay respect to those stars and those stripes, the news this morning of the events in Iraq bring new strength to the patriotism reflected by the Senate for that flag and, indeed, for our country.

Today, our military forces are to be commended for their dedication to eradicating the terrorist network in Iraq. Today's success in eliminating the terrorist, the butcher terrorist, the thuggish terrorist, al-Zarqawi, is a sure sign they are on the way to accomplishing that goal.

In my own visits to Iraq, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the amazing work our soldiers are doing there on the ground. We are proud of our military, proud of the tremendous work they are doing, and thank them for their efforts and their sacrifice for us each and every day.

Al-Zarqawi was a man who was responsible for the beheading, the killing of hundreds and, indeed, thousands of innocent children, women, and men. He was responsible for the death of many Americans in uniform, men and women. For those reasons, we all know it is a great day for Iraq and, indeed, for the United States.

Al-Zarqawi was the operational head. He is a symbolic head, we know, but

equally importantly the operational head of al-Qaida in Iraq. Osama bin Laden called him the "prince of Al-Qaeda." Reportedly, he masterminded the operations, the financial infrastructure, the financial underpinnings, and the strategic support for the terrorist network. While we all know there are many insurgents who remain in Iraq, this is surely a major blow to the terrorists who threaten both the safety and the security of Iraq and, indeed, the United States.

It is also a significant day in the formation of the Government of Iraq, the appointment of the Ministers of Defense, of the Interior, and of National Security. It is a major step forward. The Prime Minister and most of the Cabinet have been in place for about 3 weeks. I think 37 are in place with the completion of that Cabinet today. It is a major step forward. It has been a good morning. These developments are major steps forward. Although, as we all know, many challenges remain, I am more optimistic than ever that a free and stable Iraq can be achieved.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will update our colleagues over the course of the day and run down our schedule.

In a couple of minutes, we will start the 1 hour of debate prior to the cloture vote on the death tax repeal. Therefore, that first vote is expected to begin sometime between about 10:45 and 10:50. Regardless of the outcome of that cloture vote, we will then have the final debate prior to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the Native Hawaiians bill. That vote is set for 12:45 this afternoon.

The rest of today's schedule will depend on the outcome of those two cloture votes. We hope to have additional votes this afternoon on four district judges on the calendar, as well as the debate and the vote on the Schwab nomination to be U.S. Trade Representative.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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